(d) whether the project would create additional job opportunities, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to setup a National Bamboo Development Board, however, a National Mission on Bamboo Applications has been set up in the Department of Science and Technology to provide new impetus and direction to bamboo applications to ensure realisation of the considerable socio-economic and environmenal potential of bamboo. In addition, a National Misson on Bamboo Technology & Trade Development has been mooted by Planning commission to accord bamboo development a strategic role in rural economy, poverty alleviation and bamboo based handicrafts and industrial development, with Ministry of Agriculture as the Nodal Ministry.

(c) In so far as bamboo plantation is concerned, it is one of the components of National Afforestation Programme Scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Under the Scheme, bamboo plantation over an area of 59,261 hectares in 23 States has been approved in the Tenth Five Year Plan up to 31.3.2004.

(d) In so far as additional job opportunities under bamboo plantation component of National Afforestation Programme Scheme is concerned, approximately 5.93 lakh mandays would be created.

Recycling of imported electronic scrap

230. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electronic scrap sent from England is being recycled in the country releasing both permanent pollution and irreversible health damage; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to stop such import in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Electronic scrap is included under List A & List B of Schedule-3 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended from time

to time. The import of this waste therefore requires specific permission of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. No such permission has been given to any authority or person by the Ministry till date.

Assistance to Rajasthan and Punjab for Environmental Projects

231. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided by Government to the States of Rajasthan and Punjab for development and promotion of environment projects during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the amount provided therefor;

(c) whether funds provided by Government have been fully utilized by the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of financial assistance provided by Government to the Rajasthan and Punjab State Government for development and promotion of environment projects during the last two years and utilisation by the State Governments is given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of financial assistance provided by Government to Rajasthan and Bihar for environmental projects

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Name of State	Amount Released/ Allocated during the last two years	Funds Utilised by the State during the last two years(as on 1.9.2004)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)	Punjab	4890.00	4913.87
		Rajasthan	0.00	65.65